ble to most of the cases in which medicines of this kind are called for.

Being desirous to obtain personal knowledge of the medicinal character of this vegetable, I instituted trials with different parcels of the dried root, some of which were gathered by myself, in flower, near Philadelphia, and the rest sent me by friends from Baltimore and Washington. Portions of these roots were given to a variety of patients in the Dispensary and Almshouse by myself and by other physicians, who have obliged me by communicating the results of their observations. These experiments have led to the conclusion that the Euphorbia ipecacuanha in doses of from ten to twenty grains is both an emetic and cathartic; that it is more active than ipecacuanha in proportion to the number of grains administered; that in small doses it operates with as much ease as most emetics, in a majority of instances. If it fails, however, at first, it is not so safely repeated as the other emetics in common use. Given in large doses it excites active and long continued vomiting, attended with a sense of heat, vertigo, indistinct vision, and prostration of strength. I have not ventured upon any large dose myself, but have been informed, that such is the effect, by those who have given the root in

doses of two scruples and upwards. The plant appears to differ from the South American Ipecacuanha in having the degree of its operation proportionate to the quantity taken; the process of vomiting not being checked by the powder being thrown off of the stomach, as frequently happens, when common Ipecac is given in large doses.

At my request, Dr. James McKeen made this plant and another species, *E. corollata*, the subjects of an inaugural dissertation at Harvard University, in 1820. As his observations have been made with some care, and illustrate very fairly the action of the medicine, I insert the principal cases from his manuscript.

"*Case* I. The first experiment," he observes, "made with this species of the Euphorbia was upon a man of intemperate habits, about twenty seven years of age, and who appeared to be a candidate for Delirium Tremens. I gave him ten grains. He told me that it always required powerful doses of medicine to produce any effects upon his stomach or bowels, but as I was then a stranger to the powers of the Euphorbia ipecacuanha, it was thought prudent not to hazard a large quantity until something had been ascertained of its strength. When I called in the